

an organization was effected with 25 or 30 members. A prosperous Sunday-school was organized with brother D. E. Furry as superintendent. On July 19, 1896, a pleasant and comfortable house of worship was dedicated as the First Brethren church of Altoona. brother D. J. Bole of Pittsburg preached the sermon. The maximum enrollment is about 130, and has become established among the galaxy of brethren churches. We have been its pastor since its organization, except one year, when elder W. A. Harman ministered unto them. Its auxiliaries are an excellent Bible and song service weekly; Sunday-school, with brother A. Sollenberger superintendent; Ladies' Aid Society, with sister Sarah Smaltz as presiding officer.

So you see, brother Editor, that on December 31, 1900, eighteen years will have elapsed since the first "progressive" gun was fired in Blair Co., Pa. While it was said by some to have been only a "tow wad," that "wad" has done some little execution, and altho our work has not been as we desired, yet in looking back over the field we have preached 2,385 sermons, performed 75 marriages, (and all held together but two—they were tied in the orthodox way, but somehow or other slipped) Preached 75 funerals, received into church fellowship about 275. This does not seem a great work, yet in reviewing it is considerable.

Now we stand on the verge of the twentieth century "What of the night?" How far we shall penetrate the coming century, he under whose banner we have been laboring in our weakness only knows. But if not far we hope the Master may receive a few sheaves from us, gathered while in his work
W. L. SPANOGLE.



ROGER DARLING

The First Brethren Church of Pittsburg, Pa.

The First Brethren church of Pittsburg, Pa., owes its existence to the efforts of Daniel J. Bole. He came to Pittsburg, April 1, 1887. There being no Brethren church in the city he attended the 37th St. Baptist church and became a teacher in the Sunday-school, finally becoming superintendent. Later he resigned and with some difficulty found a place to organize a Brethren Sunday school. The school was organized in Vaughter's hall, on Liberty Ave., on Nov. 3, 1889. Rent was paid in advance. An organ and all necessary supplies were purchased by the founder. The school which numbered 43 grew rapidly until in three months it had attained 150 scholars, also during this time there was preaching by Rev. H. Dermitt, a retired Methodist minister. He filled the pulpit up to the date of organization.

On Jan. 23, 1890, Eld. J. D. McFaden, of Philadelphia, came to Pittsburg and formed an organization. The original members being D. J., D. K., I. C., Mrs. D. K., and Christina Bole, James

S. Lauey, Harry Griffeth and wife, Mrs. Ruth Malloy, Mrs. Mary Hanna, Misses Bella and Nettie Reynolds. The first five members of this list held their membership at Conemaugh, Pa., the remaining seven were baptized by Eld. McFaden, Jan. 25, 1890.



D. J. BOLE

The church until April 5, 1890, was under the supervision of deacons D. J. Bole and J. S. Lavey. The pulpit was filled by Elders J. B. Wampler, W. A. Adams, R. Z. Replogle, Daniel Crofford and A. D. Gnagey. The church secured the services of Eld. J. C. Mackey from April 6, to May 4, 1890, when Eld. J. D. McFaden returned and became its regular pastor, remaining until Sept. 27, 1891. During this time three lots were purchased on Dearborn St., and a modest frame building erected, also the church was chartered Sept. 8, 1891 with 27 charter members. Their next pastor was Eld. John G. Snider, being pastor until March 27, 1892. Then Eld. W. L. Spanogle was unanimously called, taking charge of church until Sept. 24, 1893. The church prospering under his care.

On Sept. 24, 1893 deacon D. J. Bole, by a unanimous vote of the church, was set apart to be ordained to the eldership. On the evening of Oct. 1, 1893, Elders P. J. Brown, J. C. Mackey and W. L. Spanogle ordained him to the ministry. Eld. Bole took charge of the church and remained as its pastor until Aug. 4, 1895. Under his supervision many were added to the church. Their next pastor was Elder Henry Wise. He held the charge until April 26, 1896. During the interval between April 26 to Sep. 13, 1896 Elders J. I. Hall and W. H. Miller filled the pulpit. Then Duncan McGregor, B.O., D.D., took charge of the church and held it until he resigned Dec. 31, 1897. Then Elder Bole filled the pulpit to April 22, 1898 with the exception of two Sundays which were filled by Eld. S. B. Grisso. On March 30th the church unanimously called Eld. R. E. Darling to become its pastor. He has charge of the church at the present time.

The church at present is in splendid working order. She has a large Sunday school, also a Ladies Aid Society and Y. P. S. C. E.

Prayer meeting every Wednesday evening. Communion service the last Thursday evening of every quarter. Also business meeting every quarter.

The old church building became inadequate to meet the demands, so in the past year a new building was erected which is nearing completion and will be dedicated soon.

Johnstown Brethren Church

This congregation found its beginning in 1882 when elder Daniel Crofford was expelled because he would not accept the decisions of Annual Meeting as mandatory; and elder W. A. Adams expelled because he publicly announced himself agent of the Progressive Christian published in

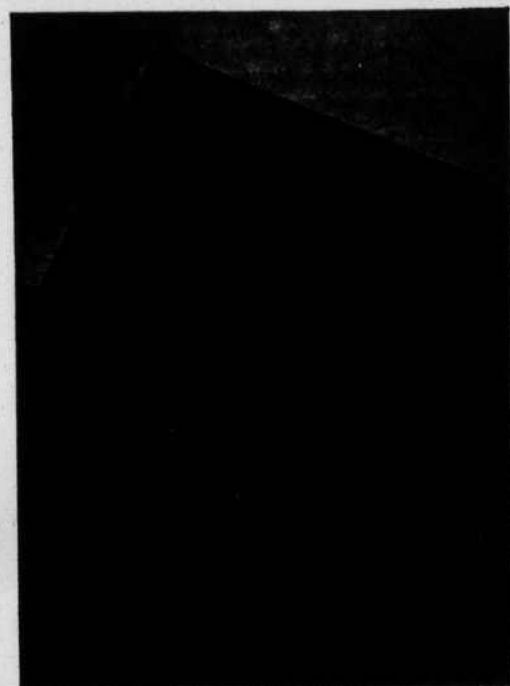
Berlin, Pa. With these two as elders the eleven resident members in division of property with the Conservatives took the Somerset St., property and assumed the debt upon it of \$8 400 00. This large debt was finally liquidated in 1894. The closing year of the century witnessed improvements made to the amount of \$3300.00 on the Somerset Street church and parsonage and \$1200.00 in Moxham.

The follow have served as pastors. Elders Daniel Crofford and W. A. Adams served without pay from the organization until 1885 when Eld. R. Z. Replogle took charge, he being followed by Eld. A. J. Sterling, and J. B. Richards succeeding Brother Sterling. In January 1891 Elder J. H. Knepper became pastor remaining until Jan. 1894. Elder E. B. Shaver served in the interim between Brother Knepper and the present pastor who began present pastorate Sept. 15th, 1894. Like other churches this congregation has had its trying days and none more than the events of the great flood of 1889. The steadfastness of the members during the past aids in the abundant harvests and prospects of the closing years of the century.



E. E. HASKINS

Of the prospects, they seem to be very good, and can the church continue humble and keep very close to God, the first decade of the new century will close upon a church of large proportions in every way. The present membership is 357 active members but an enrollment of over 400. Sad that these possible 50 can not be counted active yet dare not yet be dropped. The present organization is Daniel Crofford, elder; L. J. Ripple, Secretary; S. A. Snook, treasurer. E. E. HASKINS.



THE JOHNSTOWN CHURCH